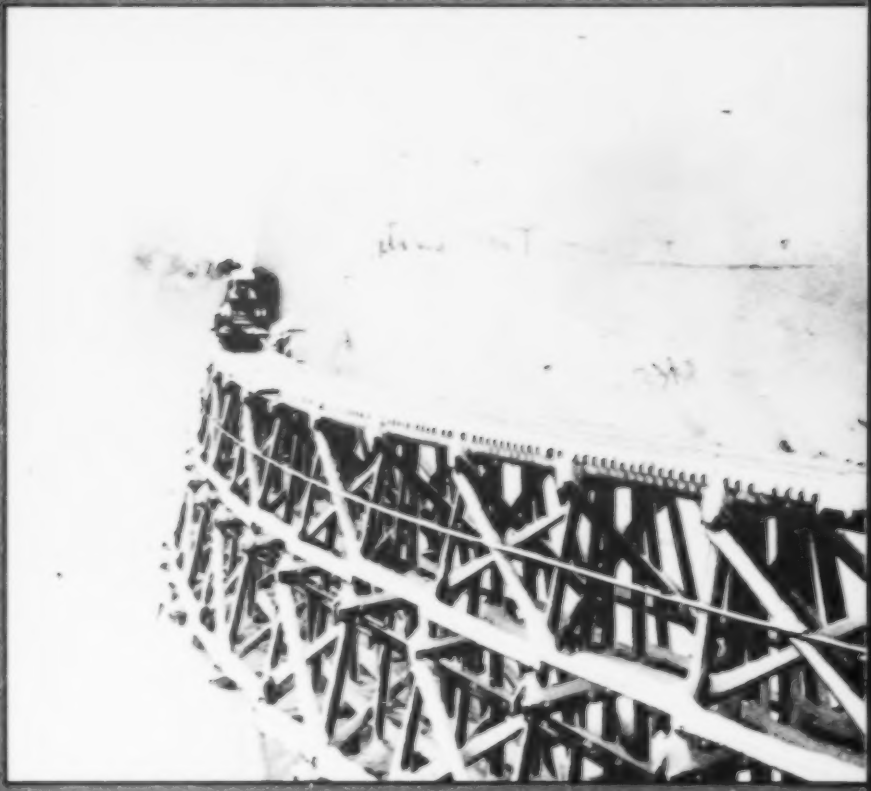
MAY 1985
ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

Alaska Department of Labor Bill Sheffield, Governor, State of Alaska



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27 Skagway Employment 1980 to Present

Alaska Economic Trends

Bill Sheffield, *Governor, State of Alaska*

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Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark date March 1984.

P/ Denotes preliminary estimates.
R/ Denotes revised estimates.

Alaska's Average Monthly Earnings Grow Slowly

By Neal Fried and Greg Huff

In 1984, Alaska's average monthly earnings stood at $2,383, $1,485 higher than in 1970. However, in constant or inflation adjusted dollars, the average wage earner is not that much better off. In 1984 constant dollars, 1970 average monthly earnings were $2,260, only $123 less than the 1984 figure. Thus for Alaska's wage earner, average monthly earnings have increased by a mere 5% over the past 14 years. Why has earnings growth been this slow? Have some industries fared better than others and have different areas of the state had different track records? These and other topics will be discussed in this article.

Before beginning analysis, it is important to have a good understanding of what average monthly earnings represent. The major source of this data is wages and salaries of employees as reported by employers covered by unemployment insurance in Alaska. The monthly earnings is calculated by dividing total wage payrolls by the number of jobs the payroll supports. Average monthly earnings is not necessarily what the individual Alaskan worker earns per month, but instead is what the average job pays. It is also impacted by the number of hours worked each month. This is an important distinction, particularly in Alaska, where seasonal employment prevails. Many workers earn their wages only during part of the year, and not over a 12-month period. An advantage of using this data is that the definition and the source of this data has been consistent over time.

In this article all reference to earnings will be in constant dollars, that is, in 1984 dollars. Earnings have increased by 5% in Alaska. This is a better record than the national average, where average earnings actually fell over the same time period. This minimal growth in earnings still comes as a surprise in light of the extremely strong economic growth which has taken place in Alaska since 1970. Employment in the state has more than doubled. However, inflation and low productivity growth have taken their toll, keeping "real" increases of Alaska's monthly earnings relatively constant.

This does not mean that the average Alaskan family or individual does not feel more than 5% better off. Indeed, family, household and per capita income has grown more rapidly than earnings per job. Today there is a much higher participation of women in the labor force. Far more women are earning wages and salaries today than in 1970. Participation of women in the labor force grew from 41% in 1970 to 60% in 1980. Couples have fewer children and therefore their income supports fewer individuals. Income in Alaska has also increased as a result of permanent fund dividends, subsidized interest rates, repeal of state income taxes, property tax relief and a number of other benefits as a result of state spending. Wages and salaries represent approximately 80% of total personal income in Alaska, but other factors have boosted Alaska's income beyond gains made in wages.

Over the past 15 years, average monthly earnings changes have been uneven. Earnings growth began slowly during the early 1970's and reached sizzling heights during the oil pipeline construction era of 1974-1976. From 1974 to 1975, Alaska's average monthly earnings climbed by 18.7% and, one year later climbed again by 9.8%. Labor shortage and overtime pay pushed monthly earnings upwards. Both pipeline and nonpipeline employers were forced to increase wages to attract or keep workers,

Over the past 15 years, average monthly earnings changes have been uneven.

and overtime was the rule of the day. Alaska's average monthly earnings peaked in 1976 at $3,238, a level which has yet to be repeated. Average monthly earnings began its long descent in real terms in 1977, falling 13.4% that year and continuing to chalk up losses through 1979, leveling off at $2,318.

Beginning in 1981, average monthly earnings began to show signs of a comeback growing at an annual rate of 2.5%. Growth continued through 1983, but not with the corresponding vigor one might expect with a rapidly expanding economy and relatively low inflation. Unlike the pipeline years, there were few labor shortages in the 1980's. The national economy plunged into the worst postwar recession providing Alaska's economy with a more than ample supply of labor. Hours worked did

climb, though not as rapidly as they did during the oil pipeline construction years.

In 1984, average monthly earnings fell by 3.8%. This occurred despite a relatively strong economy. The economic expansion had slowed and some industries were experiencing weakness, but a "real" fall in the average monthly wage was unexpected. With a less robust economy, average hours dropped pulling down average earnings.

Industry Analysis

An industry-by-industry analysis provides further insight into the monthly earnings picture. There are definite groups of long time winners and losers. These groups have either outperformed overall average monthly earnings or have fallen far short of this average. A number of industries have actually lost ground since 1970.

Among the winners are mining; transportation, communication and utilities; services; finance, insurance and real estate; and government. Overall, mining (largely oil) gets top honors. Mining's average monthly earnings have increased by 25% since 1970 or by a compounded annual growth rate of 1.4%. Mining also enjoys the highest monthly earnings of all industries at $4,544. Mining's average monthly earnings have increased four times as rapidly as the state's average. This industry has obviously performed well over the past decade, particularly with the discovery and development of Prudhoe Bay.

Transportation; finance, insurance and real estate; and services have all registered greater increases than the average. Gains in productivity may be one factor in transportation, communications and financial industries. The medical sector has been responsible for most of the growth in the service industry. Medical services employment has not only grown dramatically, but a long-term labor shortage for many of the occupations in this industry may have helped to keep wages far ahead of inflation. Though medical services average monthly earnings has more than kept up with inflation and outperformed average earnings growth, the absolute monthly earnings of $2,101 remains below the overall average of $2,383.

Government has also performed well, particularly at the state and local levels. The federal government's average monthly wage has for all practical purposes remained unchanged since 1972. State government holds the distinction of racking up the longest long-term "real" growth of government employees. In "real" terms, this category's monthly earnings has increased by 26% since 1970. Local government has also outperformed the overall monthly earnings picture, growing by almost 16% for the same period of time. Both state and local government earnings appear to be major beneficiaries of the state's new found oil wealth. For both levels of government, average monthly earnings in 1970 were below the state's average, but by the late 1970's state government began to pull ahead and local government surpassed the total state's average monthly earnings in 1983.

The list of losers is slightly shorter and contains some surprises. The list includes construction, manufacturing, and trade. Though construction enjoyed the highest monthly earnings of all industries during most of the 1970's and presently is in the second spot behind mining on real terms, it has not made any gains over its 1970 earnings levels. This does not mean there were not some very lucrative years for construction. From 1973 to 1976 earnings grew by 82%, reaching a high of $6,787 in 1976—the all time

Mining's (largely oil) average monthly earnings have increased by 25% since 1970.

record average monthly earnings in Alaska's history. Construction's average monthly earnings fell almost as quickly as it rose. By 1979 construction's average monthly earnings had fallen to $3,874, a full 43 percentage points from its peak year in 1976. By 1980 construction's average monthly earnings began to recover, but it was short lived. In 1982 it started to lose ground again, and in 1984 it actually fell below 1970's level. A slower construction season and fewer overtime hours may be partially responsible for the 1984 decline, but the 1982 and 1983 declines must have resulted from other factors because they were good years for construction employment. A large supply of labor during these years provides the best explanation for the declining earnings.

Manufacturing earnings have performed poorly as a result of a depressed logging and pulp market and more recently, lower fish prices and a depressed shell fishery. Trade's poor performance came somewhat as a surprise given its extremely vigorous growth over the past four years. One explanation could be that a change in the composition of this industry with more chain stores and more eating and drinking establishments has increased competition in this market and has put downward pressure on wages. An increased use of part-time workers could also depress monthly earnings. A larger supply of unskilled and semi-skilled labor may have the affect of keeping wages down recently. Trade's average monthly earnings has consistently been the lowest of all industries over the past decade.

Regional Earnings Trends

Changes in average monthly earning levels by area vary depending upon the structure of the economy and location. The analysis of monthly earnings by area is limited due to lack of consistent wage and salary data series for many census areas of the state and because of boundary changes between 1970 and 1984. However, the 13 census areas that are discussed in this article represent over 86% of the statewide population and represent a wide spectrum of economies and locations.

During the construction of the oil pipeline between 1974 and 1977 the average monthly earnings increased dramatically but was not evenly distributed among the various areas. Average monthly earnings in the areas containing primary construction and construction staging sites increased their average monthly earnings the most dramatically during this period. Due to a shortage of workers, earnings in nonpipeline industries also increased during increased construction activities. Average monthly earnings peaked in 1976 to $6,545 on the North Slope, $6,604 in the Valdez area and $3,629 in the Fairbanks area. Single year increases were as high as 91% in Barrow North Slope, 70% in Valdez and 30% in Fairbanks.

Average monthly earnings also increased in other railbelt communities that supplied materials, labor and support for the pipeline construction. Increases in average monthly earnings were not as extreme in these communities. Anchorage served as a primary transportation hub and supply link, major business center and oil companies headquarters, yet Anchorage's aver-

age monthly earnings increased only 5% from 1975 to 1976. This was nearly 30% less than in Fairbanks. The Kenai Peninsula with an established oil industry giving support to the oil pipeline construction, saw monthly earnings increase 6.6% in 1976.

Inevitably the pipeline construction project boom turned to bust. During the various stages of completion from 1976-1978, wages fell in the Valdez area by 64%, on the North Slope by 23% and by 29% in Fairbanks. In Anchorage, wages dropped from $2,709 per month in 1976 to $2,299 per month in 1980. On the Kenai Peninsula, they fell from $3,069 during the peak of construction to $2,464 in 1979 before rising again in 1980.

Monthly wages in the Aleutian Islands, Juneau, Kodiak, Nome, Wade Hampton, and Wrangell-Petersburg census area were insulated from the effects of the oil pipeline construction. These area's economies relied heavily on the fishing, government and timber industries and provided little or no labor, materials or other support to the pipeline project. Changes in average monthly earnings in these areas were a result of changes on the fortunes of these other industries.

Unlike the pipeline construction era the massive amount of dollars that were being injected into the Alaskan economy from 1980 through 1984 reached all areas of the state. State revenues finding their way into the regional economies had a positive effect on earnings. However, the increases during this period were not at the same magnitude as those during pipeline construction. In the early stages of the expansion there were some labor shortages which caused earnings gains. Overtime was the rule for construction. With the influx of workers from the lower 48 the work force expanded and the job market switched to an employers' market. Construction began to slow in 1984 as overtime hours decreased in the construction industry.

In all areas, average monthly earnings fell during 1983 and 1984 with the exception of the MatSu area which experienced an increase of 2.1%. The Kenai area was the only area that experienced a downturn in average monthly earnings during the 1981-1984 period. This is due to the sharp rise in trade employment which had much lower average monthly earnings gains than those in the oil industry.

Those areas with a high concentration of oil related jobs have the highest average monthly earnings. The North Slope Borough's average monthly earnings per job ranked first in the state at $4,896 in 1984, a ranking it has maintained since 1970. In 1984, due to its proximity to the North Slope oil fields, Fairbanks, had the second highest average monthly earnings per job $2,411. (The Valdez area earnings would probably rank second but because of changes in census boundaries this cannot be accurately determined. However, comparable data for 1982 shows average earnings in Valdez of $2,999, $450 more than Fairbanks' 1982 earnings.) Average monthly earnings in Kenai, Anchorage and Juneau are ranked third, fourth and fifth. Kenai has a high proportion of oil related production and manufacturing jobs. Kenai and Fairbanks swapped ranking from 1970 to 1984 as a result of the development of the North Slope oil field. Juneau's average monthly earnings is high due to the high concentration of government jobs.

The areas with the lowest earnings are rural in character and rely more on seasonal industries such as fishing, lumber, and subsistance, and less on a cash economy for a livelihood. This is because job opportunities are very limited. The Wade Hampton area has the lowest average monthly earnings. The Aleutian Islands have experienced the most drastic shift in ranking

The areas with the lowest earnings are rural in character and rely more on seasonal industries such as fishing, lumber, and subsistance.

status over the 14 year period. In 1970 average monthly earnings were $2,444, a ranking of second, and falling to $1,766 by 1984 to number 10. This was caused by the withdrawal of many military and civilian military personnel from the area and decline in the king crab fisheries.

Although the Wade Hampton area has the lowest average monthly earnings of the selected areas, the compounded growth rate since 1970 is the highest, averaging 2.4% annually, seven times faster than monthly earning statewide. Earnings per month grew from $997 in 1970 to $1,425 in 1984. The pattern of this growth was extreme, growing by 45% in a single year and fall-

Average Monthly Earnings by Industry
1970-1984
(Adjusted to 1984 Dollars)

Industry	1970	1972	1974	1976	1978	1980	1982	1984 1/	Cmpd. Growth Rate 1970-1984
State Total	$2260	$2307	$2484	$3238	$2483	$2333	$2439	$2383	0.35%
Mining	3642	3667	3882	4543	4801	4588	4506	4544	1.49%
Metal Mining	2509	2221	2311	2395	2440	2668	5223	3124	1.47%
Oil and Gas	3743	3831	4022	4702	4912	4716	4610	4627	1.42%
Other	3629	3136	3810	4100	*	3787	4297	4786	1.86%
Contract Construction	3828	3852	4699	6787	4330	4017	4175	3761	-0.12%
Manufacturing	2245	2209	2334	2366	2317	2221	2072	2123	-0.37%
Trans Comm & Public Utilities	2567	2606	2820	3398	3138	2966	3091	2924	0.87%
Trucking and Whseing	2429	2364	3242	4768	3729	3577	3389	2886	1.16%
Water Transportation	2149	2385	2548	2979	2837	2739	3116	3025	2.30%
Air Transportation	2555	2580	2696	2531	2621	2440	2611	2479	-0.20%
Other Transportation	1389	1315	1449	2654	2809	2617	2845	2654	4.41%
Comm & Pub Utilities	3184	3125	3256	3723	3713	3449	3537	3477	0.59%

Trade	1802	1824	1791	1930	1779	1618	1613	1622	-0.70%
Wholesale	2638	2720	2807	3050	2753	2601	2593	2543	-0.24%
Retail	1578	1605	1550	1612	1537	1391	1381	1387	-0.81%
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1822	2012	1968	2010	2018	1894	2029	2095	0.93%
Services	1631	1660	1811	2518	1862	1693	1900	1827	0.76%
Hotels, Motels & Lodges	1236	1175	1167	1221	1169	1077	1021	1103	-0.76%
Personal Services	1304	1327	1299	1377	1189	1107	1114	1056	-1.40%
Business Services	1978	1657	1976	3880	2403	1903	2154	1908	-0.24%
Medical Services	1528	1879	1840	2042	2106	2080	2206	2101	2.15%
Other Services	1709	1755	1992	2096	1759	1651	1959	1938	0.84%
Government	2197	2323	2274	2381	2403	2362	2433	2479	0.81%
Federal	2250	2345	2303	2279	2333	2141	2140	2267	0.05%
State	2180	2323	2431	2573	2753	2792	2720	2738	1.53%
Local	2107	2309	2034	2328	2212	2233	2432	2438	0.98%

1/ Based on 9-month average
* Nondisclosable.

Table II
Average Monthly Earnings by Census Area
1970-1984
(Adjusted to 1984 Dollars)

Industry	1970	1972	1974	1976	1978	1980	1982	1984	Cmpd. Growth Rate 1970-1984
State Total	$2260	$2307	$2484	$3238	$2483	$2333	$2439	$2383	0.35%
Aleutian Islands	2444	2307	2171	2518	1958	1873	1801	1766	-2.14%
Anchorage Borough	2295	2395	2402	2709	2484	2299	2344	2324	0.08%
Barrow	3738	3134	2933	6545	5106	4575	5063	4896	1.82%
Fairbanks North Star	2303	2252	2717	3629	2658	2470	2526	2411	0.31%
Juneau Borough	2255	2404	2330	2375	2331	2261	2324	2263	0.02%
Kenai Peninsula	2529	2573	2546	2926	2613	2556	2521	2367	-0.44%
Kodiak Island Borough	1679	2024	2128	2161	1970	1851	1994	1933	0.94%
Mat/Su Borough	2119	2078	2110	2210	2046	1918	2041	2038	-0.26%
Nome	1696	1883	1912	2160	1729	1777	2006	2007	1.13%
Seward	1880	1978	2029	1978	1684	1909	1971	2066	0.63%
Wade Hampton	997	1581	1375	2266	1593	1384	1530	1425	2.41%
Wrangell-Petersburg	1842	2033	2186	2167	2033	1855	2147	1955	0.40%
Valdez-Chitina-Whittier	2016	2437	3345	6604	2619	2912	2999	*	*

* Data not available

ing by 28% another year. The area where monthly earnings fell most severly was the Aleutian Islands. The Aleutians had declines 9 out of 14 years. Two other areas had overall declines in the average monthly earnings during this 14 year period. They were Kenai and the MatSu areas. This might be due to their fast growing lower paying retail trade sectors.

The Nome and Kodiak areas monthly earnings growth ranked second and third. The early 1970's were good years for Kodiak where wages increased 5 out of the first 6 years, the largest increase occurring from 1971 to 1972. Since 1976 increases occurred only two out of eight years. Seward, unlike the remainder of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, has experienced positive growth in monthly earnings over the entire period. The Anchorage and Juneau areas have barely managed to keep up with inflation. In Juneau this is somewhat surprising because of the high ratio of state workers whose earnings grew 26% over the 14 year period. Obviously, wages in other sectors of the Juneau economy have lost ground to inflation. In Anchorage, the sectors which have had low real earnings gains and even losses such as the retail trade and services sectors provided most of the new jobs which offset the earnings gains in other industries.

Alaska

By Ed Eboch

Growth in State Government Employment

Much attention has been given to the growth in Alaska state government employment over the past several years. While state government employment has grown 7.5% since 1982, the rate of growth is less than the 16.7% growth in population. With a rapidly growing population the state has found it necessary to provide additional services. This is reflected in the growth in employment by department (Table I). Those departments whose employment is population driven (i.e., Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Labor, Department of Corrections, University of Alaska), have rates of growth comparable to the rate of growth in the population. Those departments whose employment is less directly related to population have generally increased at a slower rate than increases in population. (*Note:* The data reflects the annual average number of state workers, including the University of Alaska System, who received a paycheck during calendar year 1982 and 1984. It should not be confused with positions authorized by the legislature in the budget which may differ due to vacancies and other reasons. It does not distinguish between full-time, part-time, project or seasonal employment.)

All areas of the state have benefited from the growth in state employment (Table II). The Northern and Gulf Coast regions have experienced the greatest rate of increase while Anchorage and Fairbanks have had the greatest absolute increases in number of state government employees. In comparing state employment between time periods the effect of seasonal employment is also important. Total state government employment data indicates a downturn during the summer months but if we exclude the University of Alaska from the data we see state noneducational employment increased during the summer months (Graph I). Much of the increase is explained by seasonal employees in the Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Game, (Graph II). From the same graph we see that the Department of Public Safety also increases its employment during the summer months while the Department of Corrections has gradually increased employment as a result of court cases and an

increased prison population. Although not shown, it should be noted that the legislature has approximately 50% more employees during the legislative session than during the rest of the year. Employment in the legislature will therefore be impacted by the length of the legislative session.

Caution is advised in using the departmental data in the form presented as programs continuously change. The most obvious example is a new Department of Corrections, a division in the Department of Health and Social Services in 1982. Programs have also been transferred between departments. For example, energy programs were transferred from the Department of Commerce and Economic Development (DCED) to the Department of Community and Regional Affairs while weigh stations were transferred to DCED from Public Safety. This movement of programs and activities make it difficult to draw conclusions from department data without additional analysis. An increase in the number of employees in a department does not necessarily mean expanded programs. It should also be noted that the data is for the calendar year and not the state fiscal year.

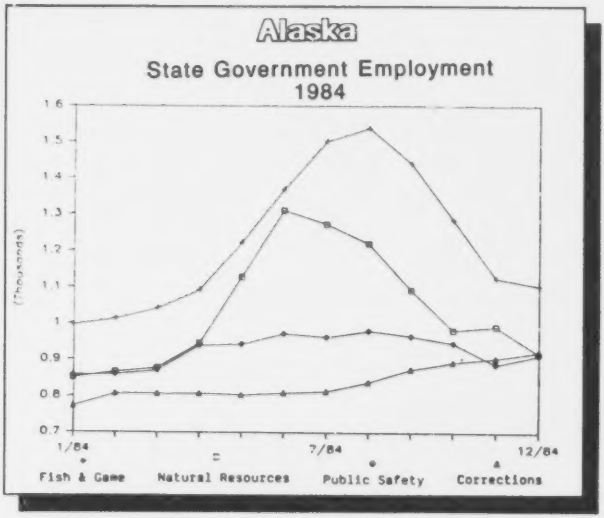


Table I
Alaska
State Government Employment 1/
by Organization

	1982	1984	% Change
Population 4/	460837	538000	16.7
Office of Ombusdman	20	26	30.0
Health & Social Services	2087	1632	18.3 3/
Corrections	* 2/	837	* 3/
Legislative	455	523	14.9
Administration	1041	1185	13.8
Law	300	340	13.3
University of Alaska	4188	4724	12.5
Labor	591	659	11.5
Revenue	342	375	9.6
Court System	590	642	8.8
Fish & Game	1173	1229	4.8
Education	464	480	3.4
Environmental Conservation	216	223	3.2
Commerce & Economic Development	439	452	3.0
Natural Resources	1019	1038	1.9
Public Safety	908	925	1.9
Military Affairs	93	93	—
Transportation	3204	3132	-2.2
Governor's Office	276	260	-5.8
Community & Regional Affairs	233	187	-19.7
Total State Government	17649	18962	7.4

1/ Data reflects the annual average number of state workers, including the University of Alaska, who received a paycheck during calendar year 1984. It should not be confused with positions authorized by the legislature which may differ due to vacancies and other reasons. It does not distinguish between a full-time, part-time, project or seasonal employee.

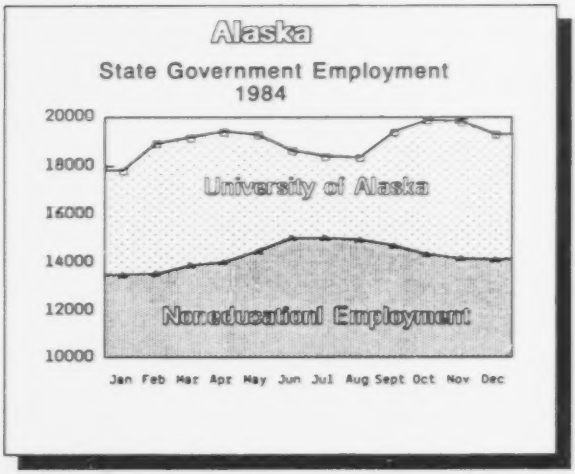
2/ The Department of Corrections was part of the Department of Health & Social Services in 1982.

3/ Represents growth in the combined Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Corrections.

4/ July 1, 1982 population and 1984 population estimates.

Table II
Alaska
State Government Employment
by Area

	1982	1984	% Change
Northern Region	297	363	22.2
Nome	215	236	9.8
Interior Region	3671	3974	8.2
Fairbanks	3397	3677	8.2
Southwest Region	436	467	7.1
Bethel	230	234	1.7
Anchorage Region	6577	7125	8.3
Anchorage	6034	6477	7.2
MatSu Borough	543	648	19.3
Gulf Coast Region	1361	1536	12.9
Kenai	405	530	30.9
Southeast Region	5210	5410	3.8
Juneau	4271	4382	2.6
Ketchikan	526	580	10.3
Out of State	90	89	-1.1
Not assigned to an area	7	4	—
Total	17649	18968	7.5



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
by Place of Work
Alaska

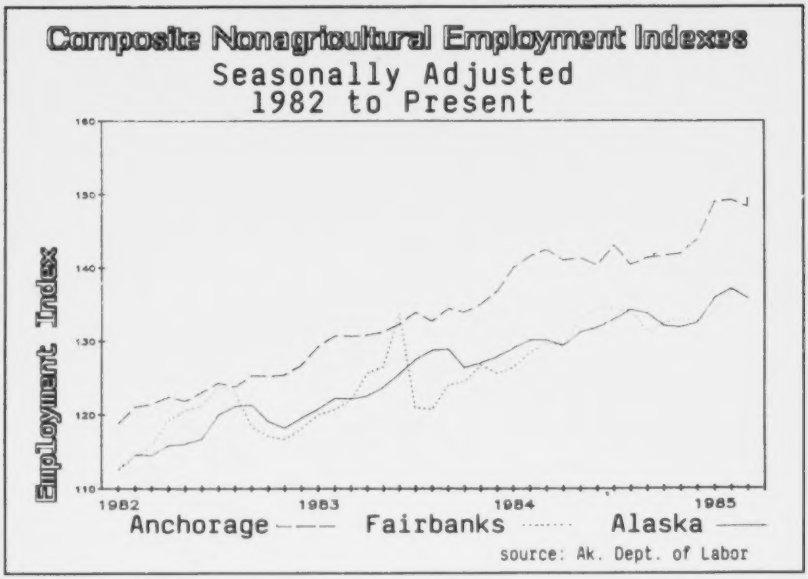
				Changes From:	
	P/ 3/85	R/ 2/85	3/84	2/85	3/84
Nonag Wage & Salary	221500	218700	211900	2800	9600
Mining	9700	9700	8600	0	1100
Construction	15600	14800	16600	800	-1000
Manufacturing	8700	7800	8200	900	500
Food & Kindred Prod	3500	3000	3300	500	200
Lumber & Paper Prod	2100	1800	2000	300	100
All Other Mfg	3100	3000	2900	100	200
Trans Comm & Utilities	18300	18100	18000	200	300
Trucking & Whseing	2200	2100	2000	100	200
Water Transportation	1100	1100	1100	0	0
Air Transportation	6000	5900	5900	100	100
Other Trans Comm & Utilities	9000	9000	9000	0	0
Trade	43300	43500	41400	-200	1900
Wholesale	8700	8500	8200	200	500
Retail	34600	35000	33200	-400	1400
Gen Mer & Apparel	4900	4900	4600	0	300
Food Stores	5800	5800	5300	0	500
Eating & Drinking Pl	12300	12700	11700	-400	600
Other Retail Trade	11600	11600	11600	0	0
Finance-Ins & R E	12700	12600	11900	100	800
Services & Misc	43500	43200	41800	300	1700
Government	69700	69000	65400	700	4300
Federal	18100	18000	17500	100	600
State	20400	20100	19400	300	1000
Local	31200	30900	28500	300	2700

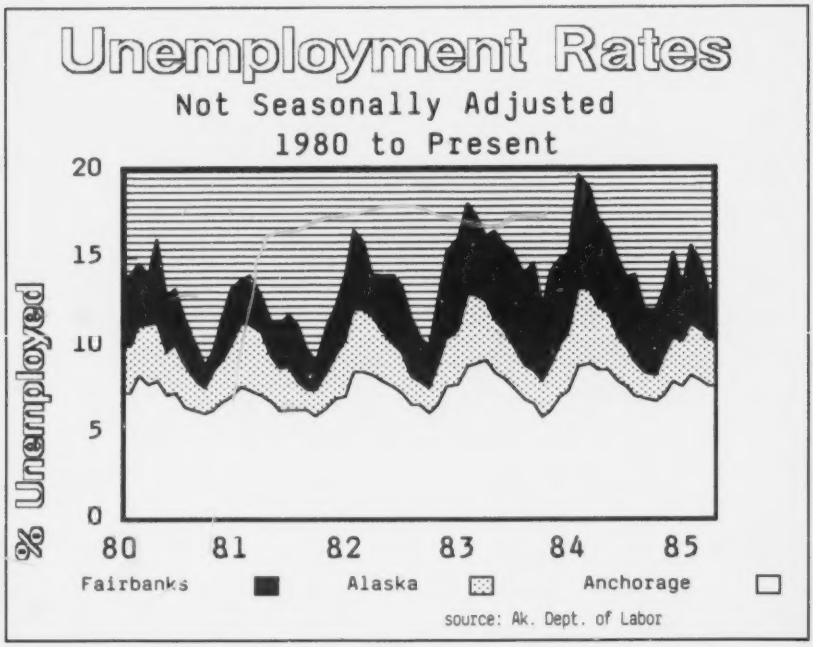
Prepared in cooperation with the U S Bureau of Labor Statistics

Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska

Benchmark date March 1984

P/ Denotes preliminary estimates
R/ Denotes revised estimates


Composite Nonagricultural Employment Indexes
Seasonally Adjusted
1982 to Present
Employment Index
160
150
140
130
120
110
1982
1983
1984
1985
Anchorage
Fairbanks
Alaska
source: Ak. Dept. of Labor


Unemployment Rates
Not Seasonally Adjusted
1980 to Present
% Unemployed
20
15
10
5
0
80
81
82
83
84
85
Fairbanks
Alaska
Anchorage
source: Ak. Dept. of Labor

Anchorage/MatSu

By Greg Huff

Eagle River and Surrounding Areas Population and Employment Trends 1980-1984

Situated along the Glenn Highway at the most northern portion of the Municipality of Anchorage, are the communities of Eagle River, Chugiak, Birchwood, Peters Creek and Eklutna. These communities, separated from the core of Anchorage by Elmendorf AFB and Fort Richardson, were, except for the Abbott Loop area of Anchorage, the fastest growing communities in the Municipality of Anchorage from 1980 to 1984. In these four years, the population nearly doubled from 12,858 to 24,202. Seventy percent of the area's net gain was in the Eagle River area. By 1984 Eagle River, Chugiak, Birchwood, Peters Creek and Eklutna accounted for 10% of Anchorage's total population up from 7.4% in 1980 and 4.6 in 1970.

The growing population caused established firms to expand their existing operations and new firms to move into the area. As a result, employment in the Eagle River, Chugiak and surrounding areas increased from 1,203 in 1980 to 2,266 in 1984, an 88% increase. The number of firms increased from 163 to 325. Two-thirds of the new jobs created over the period were in businesses related to wholesale and retail trade, medical care, a host of personal and business services, and those providing electricity and telephone services.

Retail trade is the single largest sector and provided the majority of new jobs over the period. Sixty-seven percent of all retail jobs in the area are directly related to feeding the residents either at restaurants or grocery stores. Employment in the trade sector will grow substantially in Eagle River during this year with the opening in April of the Eagle Valley Center. In addition, several fast food restaurants are expected to open in 1985.

In response to a sharp rise in the population of school age children, school employment in the area grew 46% over the four year period. The demand for other government services such as road maintenance and law enforcement increased employment throughout the Municipality of Anchorage, but may not be specifically indicated in the employment statistics for the Ea-

Labor Force by Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	P/ 3/85	R/ 2/85	3/84	P/ 3/85	R/ 2/85	3/84	P/ 3/85	R/ 2/85	3/84	P/ 3/85	R/ 2/85	3/84
Alaska Statewide	251114	246101	234842	26185	26593	27844	10.4	10.8	11.9	224929	219508	206998
Anch.-MatSu Region	136274	134473	125877	11916	12253	11537	8.7	9.1	9.2	124358	122220	114340
Anchorage Borough	121531	119778	112403	9416	9590	9319	7.7	8.0	8.3	112115	110188	103084
MatSu Borough	14743	14695	13474	2500	2663	2218	17.0	18.1	16.5	12243	12032	11256
Gulf Coast Region	25561	24695	24267	3812	3568	4010	14.9	14.4	16.5	21749	21127	20257
Kenai Peninsula Bor.	15796	15429	15225	2524	2536	2863	16.0	16.4	18.8	13272	12893	12362
Kodiak Island Bor.	5917	5504	5191	779	513	406	13.2	9.3	7.8	5138	4991	4785
Valdez-Cordova	3848	3762	3851	509	519	741	13.2	13.8	19.2	3339	3243	3110
Interior Region	37243	36577	34821	4838	5237	5342	13.0	14.3	15.3	32405	31340	29479
Fairbanks North Star Borough	30077	29664	28082	3897	4344	4266	13.0	14.6	15.2	26180	25320	23816
Southeast Fairbanks	2970	2920	2775	333	370	376	11.2	12.7	13.5	2637	2550	2399
Yukon-Koyukuk	4196	3993	3964	608	523	700	14.5	13.1	17.7	3588	3470	3264
Northern Region	8782	8150	8183	904	627	1115	10.3	7.7	13.6	7878	7523	7068
Kobuk	2762	2559	2621	290	198	403	10.5	7.7	15.4	2472	2361	2218
Nome	3721	3469	3450	423	320	492	11.4	9.2	14.3	3298	3149	2958
North Slope Borough	2299	2122	2112	191	109	220	8.3	5.1	10.4	2108	2013	1892
Southeast Region	31846	31496	31430	3514	4097	4700	11.0	13.0	15.0	28332	27399	26730
Haines Borough	1063	1040	1005	171	177	163	16.1	17.0	16.2	892	863	842
Juneau Borough	12030	11810	11599	1064	1205	1252	8.8	10.2	10.8	10966	10605	10347
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6737	6748	6761	728	937	1092	10.8	13.9	16.2	6009	5811	5669
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	2384	2347	2372	342	372	446	14.3	15.9	18.8	2042	1975	1926
Sitka Borough	3932	3884	3836	314	385	423	8.0	9.9	11.0	3618	3499	3413
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon	2089	2085	1972	396	448	375	19.0	21.5	19.0	1693	1637	1597
Wrangell-Petersburg	3611	3582	3885	499	573	949	13.8	16.0	24.4	3112	3009	2936
Southwest Region	11408	10710	10264	1201	811	1140	10.5	7.6	11.1	10207	9899	9124
Aleutian Islands	2677	2544	2416	119	64	130	4.4	2.5	5.4	2558	2480	2286
Bethel	4483	4195	4048	540	371	523	12.0	8.8	12.9	3943	3824	3525
Bristol Bay Borough	452	433	417	51	44	58	11.3	10.2	13.9	401	389	359
Dillingham	1906	1807	1709	214	166	197	11.2	9.2	11.5	1692	1641	1512
Wade Hampton	1890	1731	1674	277	166	232	14.7	9.6	13.9	1613	1565	1442

P/ = Preliminary 1984 Benchmark

R/ = Revised

Federal guidelines require the use of unrounded labor force data, adjusted to be consistent with the Current Population Survey (CPS) in formulas used to allocate federal funds. Compairsons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor; because Alaska's CPS sample size is inadequate to accurately indicate monthly changes in level. The sampling errors are random in nature; meaning that the unemployment rates, in any given month, are as likely to be high as frequently as they are low. The official definitions of unemployment, currently in place, exclude anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four week period up to and including the week that includes the twelfth of each month. Most economists feel that Alaska's bush locatlities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.

gle River/Chugiak areas. During the period between 1980 and 1984, employment in the transportation, communications and utilities industry fluctuated substantially due to changes in school bus contracts. All other segments of the industry experienced employment gains over the 1980 to 1984 period.

Table I
Eagle River and Surrounding Area
Population
1970-1984

	1970 1/	1980 1/	1981 2/	1982 2/	1983 2/	1984 2/
Eagle River	2981	7528	8787	9106	13741	15320
Chugiak, Birchwood, Peters Creek and Eklutna	2851	5330	5538	5871	8208	8892
Total Area	5832	12858	14325	14977	21949	24202
Total Anchorage	126385	174431	187761	204216	230846	244030

1/ Source: U.S. Census
2/ Source: Municipality of Anchorage, Planning Department.

Table II
Eagle River/Chugiak and Surrounding Area Employment
1980-1984

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984 1/
Nonag. Wage & Salary	1203	1398	1579	1951	2266
Mining	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	90	122	206	305	362
Manufacturing	*	*	*	*	*
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	123	116	82	143	189
Trade	314	466	533	608	661
Wholesale	31	57	50	51	49
Retail	283	409	483	557	612
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	34	37	48	64	80
Services and Misc.	250	264	261	362	459
Government	383	379	385	451	495
Federal	40	26	25	35	38
State	98	98	92	100	100
Local	245	255	268	316	357

1/ First 9 months average
* Nondisclosable

Note: The Eagle River, Chugiak, Peters Creek and Eklutna areas employment statistics are only available beginning in 1980.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
by Place of Work
Anchorage/MatSu

				Changes From:	
	P/ 3/85	R/ 2/85	3/84	2/85	3/84
Nonag. Wage & Salary	119150	118500	112900	650	6250
Mining	4200	4150	3900	50	300
Construction	8350	8150	9000	200	-650
Manufacturing	2450	2350	2250	100	200
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	9400	9350	9250	50	150
Trade	29100	29050	26950	50	2150
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	9300	9300	8300	0	1000
Services & Misc.	27650	27550	26000	100	1650
Government	28700	28600	27250	100	1450

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
by Place of Work
Anchorage

				Changes From:	
	P/ 3/85	R/ 2/85	3/84	2/85	3/84
Nonag. Wage & Salary	111900	111400	107350	500	4550
Mining	4200	4150	3900	50	300
Construction	7700	7550	8250	150	-550
Manufacturing	2350	2300	2200	50	150
Food & Kindred Prod.	350	350	350	0	0
Other Mfg.	2000	1950	1850	50	150
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	8700	8700	8650	0	50
Trucking & Whseing.	1150	1150	1050	0	100
Water Transportation	350	350	350	0	0
Air Transportation	3350	3350	3550	0	-200
Other Trans. Comm. & Utilities	3850	3850	3700	0	150
Trade	27400	27400	25650	0	1750
Wholesale	6650	6550	6300	100	350
Retail	20750	20850	19350	-100	1400
Gen. Merchandise	1500	1550	1550	-50	-50
Food Stores	3050	3100	2600	-50	450
Eating & Drinking Pl.	8200	8300	7550	-100	650
Other Retail Trade	8000	7900	7650	100	350
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	8800	8650	8300	150	500
Services & Misc.	26250	26250	25050	0	1200
Government	26500	26400	25350	100	1150
Federal	10200	10150	9900	50	300
State	7000	6950	6750	50	250
Local	9300	9300	8700	0	600

Fairbanks/Interior

By Neal Fried

Fairbanks—1985 Another Good Construction Season?

The 1980's have been good years for the construction industry in Fairbanks. The number of new jobs in this industry has climbed by 1,200 in four years. Presently, the industry employs approximately 2,800 people. In Fairbanks, construction's share of total employment has risen steadily each year and now represents 10% of the wage and salaried work force. The status of this industry is often used, though not always accurately, as a barometer of a local community's economic health. This occurs because it is such a visual and tangible activity and because the expansion of any industry will generally involve a construction phase.

Public, commercial, and residential construction all contribute to the industry's growing employment. Public and residential construction receive a boost from state expenditures for capital projects and subsidized home programs. Commercial construction follows the lead of public and residential construction. All three sectors have remained strong over the past four years. Will this good fortune continue through 1985? Construction's employment growth rate peaked in 1982, but employment continues to grow at a more than respectable rate (12% in 1984). Unlike statewide construction, which began to show weakness during the latter half of 1984, Fairbanks construction employment experienced strong growth.

Most public sector construction activity is generated from past years state government appropriations. In 1984, the legislature passed the largest capital projects package in Fairbanks' history ($112 million), insuring that 1984 and 1985 would be good years for construction employment. There are some concerns about future public construction activity because of a decline in state revenues. It is too early to estimate how lower revenues will affect Fairbanks this year, but significantly smaller revenues could restrain public construction. Commercial construction is a hard industry to forecast because there is not a great deal of information about future projects. However, building permit values for the last half of 1984 were very strong, which should portend a good 1985 season. Major contractors in the field have

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
by Place of Work
Interior

	P/ 3/85	R/ 2/85	3/84	Changes From: 2/85	3/84
Nonag. Wage & Salary	31550	30900	29700	650	1850
Mining	250	300	200	-50	50
Construction	2550	2350	2100	200	450
Manufacturing	500	500	500	0	0
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	3400	3350	3350	50	50
Trade	5950	5950	5600	-50	300
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	1000	1000	1000	0	0
Services & Misc.	5550	5450	5400	100	150
Government	12400	12000	11550	400	850

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
by Place of Work
Fairbanks

	P/ 3/85	R/ 2/85	3/84	Changes From: 2/85	3/84
Nonag. Wage & Salary	27200	26900	25750	300	1450
Mining	150	200	100	-50	50
Construction	2450	2250	2050	200	400
Manufacturing	500	450	450	50	50
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	2750	2750	2700	0	50
Trucking & Whseing.	450	450	350	0	100
Air Transportation	800	800	750	0	50
Other Trans. Comm. & Utilities	1500	1500	1600	0	-100
Trade	5450	5550	5200	-100	250
Wholesale	1050	1050	1000	0	50
Retail	4400	4500	4200	-100	200
Gen. Mer. & Apparel	500	500	500	0	0
Food Stores	800	800	700	0	100
Other Retail Trade	3100	3200	3000	-100	100
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	900	900	900	0	0
Services & Misc.	5300	5150	5150	150	150
Government	9700	9650	9200	50	500
Federal	2700	2700	2550	0	150
State	4200	4150	3950	50	250
Local	2800	2800	2700	0	100

identified a number of specific projects and also have predicted another good year.

Residential construction is the most difficult to predict because of the large number of contractors involved and the fickle nature of the market. It appears vacancies are up and there is a good inventory of homes for sale. Growth is unlikely to occur in this industry. A number of contractors do have plans for additional large multi-family complexes which should keep the building permit numbers high, particularly if the planned 300 unit complex at Eielson AFB gets underway this building season. Single family home construction is expected to remain sluggish again in 1985 and the duplex and four-plex market probably peaked in 1984. Overall, construction in 1985 should remain strong. Relative to 1984's levels no dramatic swing in either direction is expected. A repeat of 1984's levels would make 1985 a more than respectable year.

Gulf Coast

By Neal Fried

Kenai-Soldotna Employment Growth

The Department of Labor now has the capability to produce wage and salary employment statistics for the Kenai-Soldotna market area within the Kenai Peninsula Borough (see Table below). Since 1980, there has been an increase of 2,084 new jobs in the Kenai-Soldotna area. This will come as no surprise to many, since the area's population has grown by 47%. The nonagricultural wage and salary employment payroll has climbed from $152 million in 1980 to $239 million in 1984. Job growth in the area has outstripped most of the state over the past four years. Employment in the Kenai-Soldotna area has grown by 37% compared to 32% statewide.

The top four contributors to employment growth have been construction, trade, government, and services. Together these four industries have been responsible for 75% of the new jobs in the area. Construction was the number one growth industry with employment increasing by 76% over the past four years. Trade was second in percentage growth and first in absolute number of jobs. In four years the trade industry has added 681 new jobs. Government and services followed closely behind trade in employment growth.

Construction and trade growth has manifested itself in the malls and retail outlets which have multiplied in the area. Construction's legacy is also evident in the form of new schools, public projects, and housing. The face of retail trade in Kenai-Soldotna has changed permanently. The industry is now dominated by franchise and large national chains, and competition in retail trade has become increasingly fierce. Retail trade's share of the work force has grown from 12% in 1980 to 16% in 1984.

In spite of growing employment, two of the area's basic industries employment have actually fallen. There are fewer people employed in manufacturing and mining than were employed in 1980 (see Table I, Mining and Food and Kindred Products). Manufacturing declined as a result of poor shellfish harvests and mining declined as a result of a declining oil field. In the

Table I
Kenai-Soldotna Employment
1980-1984

	1980	1981	1982	1983	9 Month Average 1984	Number of New Jobs 1/ 1980-1984
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary	5637	5986	6523	7019	7694	2057
Mining	733	718	722	552	594	-139
Construction	514	608	675	790	906	392
Manufacturing	1024	856	924	922	992	-32
Food & Kindred Products	536	368	424	403	461	-75
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	458	634	632	629	603	145
Trade	911	1017	1083	1262	1592	681
Wholesale	236	311	283	289	339	103
Retail	675	706	800	973	1253	578
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	155	177	206	231	233	78
Services & Misc.	688	758	911	1121	1151	463
Government	1154	1218	1370	1512	1623	469
Federal	76	74	77	92	97	21
State	323	365	402	456	508	185
Local	755	779	891	964	1018	263

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis.

1/ By comparing the 1984 nine month average employment to the 1980, full years employment may overstate actual growth in employment during this period.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
by Place of Work
Gulf Coast

	P/ 3/85	R/ 2/85	3/84	Changes From: 2/85	3/84
Nonag. Wage & Salary	18650	18250	17850	400	800
Mining	800	800	700	0	100
Construction	1350	1300	1350	50	0
Manufacturing	2000	1900	2150	100	-150
Food & Kindred Prod.	1350	1250	1550	100	-200
All Other Mfg.	650	650	600	0	50
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	2100	2100	2100	0	0
Trade	3200	3100	3000	100	200
Wholesale	400	400	400	0	0
Retail	2800	2700	2600	100	200
Finance—Ins. & R.E.	650	650	600	0	50
Services & Misc.	3000	3000	2700	0	300
Government	5550	5400	5250	150	300
Federal	500	500	500	0	0
State	1600	1550	1550	50	50
Local	3450	3350	3200	100	250

past, a deterioration in any one of these industries and particularly in both may have caused total employment in the area to fall. The present economy of the area obviously received its boost from state expenditures and tourism.

Tourism has been on the rise from both increasing numbers of out-of-state and Alaskan visitors. The number of tourists will likely continue to climb in future years, providing stimulus from expansion in this industry. The decline in state expenditures, however, will eventually be felt. In the near future, this will translate into slower growth.

Southeast Alaska

By John Boucher

Skagway Employment 1980 to Present

The conversion of the Department of Labor's ES-202 data to 1980 census areas has made data available in much finer detail than was previously attainable. The conversion allows the analysis of smaller areas that were previously masked within the larger census divisions. The first case study chosen within the Southeastern region is of an area that has received a lot of publicity during the past several years because of the extremely high unemployment rates that occurred following the closure of the White Pass and Yukon railroad in 1982. The area referred to is the Skagway census subarea, which includes Skagway and the Clifton area.

One unique aspect about any employment study of the Skagway area is that it would not be very meaningful unless employment not covered by state or federal unemployment laws was considered. Any exclusion of noncovered employees would necessarily exclude railroad workers since they have a separate unemployment compensation system. Therefore, the impact of the railroad closure would not show up in the covered numbers except for the residual effects on covered employment such as layoffs in retail trade stores caused by a lack of business. To illustrate this point consider the fact that employment covered by Alaska unemployment insurance held relatively stable from 1980 to 1984 while nonagricultural wage and salary employment including noncovered employment decreased during that period nearly 33%.

The overall impact on the Skagway economy by the closure of the White Pass and Yukon railroad has obviously been devastating to this historic Alaskan town. When the railroad ceased to operate it took with it about 160 year-round jobs and an annual payroll of over 4.5 million dollars. Total nonagricultural employment dropped by nearly one-third from 1981, the last full year of operation, to 1983 the first full year of closure.

When an economic event of this magnitude occurs, it would be expected to have repercussions in the local wage and salary employment figures. However, Skagway wage and salary em-

Skagway Employment

January 1980 to September 1984

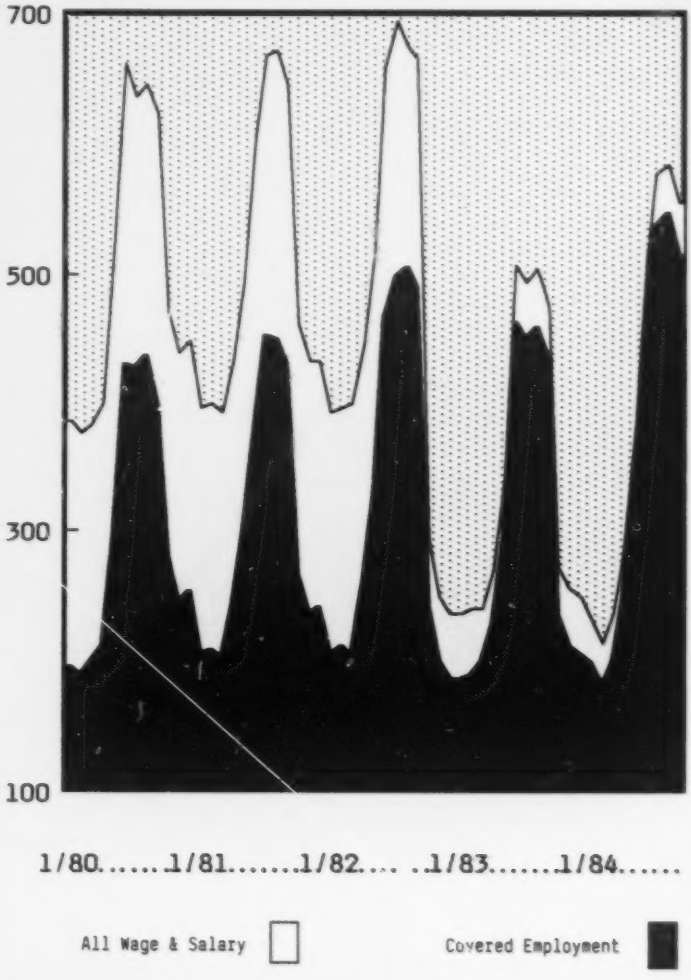


Table I
Skagway Census Subarea Employment by Industry
Annual Averages
1980-1983

Industry	1980	1981	1982	1983
Construction	*	*	*	*
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	67	70	75	78
Retail Trade	55	66	64	62
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	10	11	12	11
Mining, Services & Misc.	69	66	67	56
Covered Agriculture	*	*	*	*
Federal Government	11	11	9	7
State Government	22	23	25	27
Local Government	57	47	51	48
Total	295	279	314	295
Noncovered 1/	203	202	153	45
Total with Noncovered	498	501	467	340
Noncovered % of Total	41%	40%	33%	13%

* Nondisclosable
Totals may not add due to rounding

Table II
Skagway Census Subarea Employment by Industry
January-September Averages
1980-1984

Industry	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Construction	*	*	*	*	*
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	67	77	83	87	80
Retail Trade	57	71	72	70	81
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	10	11	13	11	10
Mining, Services & Misc.	80	76	80	65	74
Covered Agriculture	*	*	*	*	*
Federal Government	11	11	9	7	31
State Government	21	23	26	27	33
Local Government	56	45	53	47	46
Total	307	317	350	320	356
Noncovered 1/	206	204	187	46	40
Total with Noncovered	513	521	537	366	396
Noncovered % of Total	40%	40%	35%	13%	10%

* Nondisclosable
Totals may not add due to rounding

1/ Includes railroad related employment and other employment not covered by Alaska's Unemployment Insurance Act

ployment has been suprisingly resilient since the railroad closure. The staples of the Skagway economy besides railroad employment are the transportation, communication and utilities industry; retail trade employment; services related employment; and local government employment. All four of these industries have managed to hold close to their 1981 levels through the first nine months of 1984, and with the exception of services, employment in these industries has slightly increased since that time, (see Table II).

Alaska's growing tourist industry helped bolster Skagway's economy during the past several years. Skagway has been the last stop for many of the cruise lines plying the Inside Passage as well as being the northern terminus for the Alaska Marine Highway. As such it is convenient jumping off point for tourists heading to the Yukon Territory or into Alaska's interior. The services and retail trade industries in particular are the benefactors of this growing tourism. This is reflected in the employment numbers in these two industries.

Government employment has also been a stablizing factor during the past several years. While the Skagway area has not been a large benefactor of recent growth in state employment, state, local and federal government employment have not been adversely affected by the railroad closure and have provided a base for year-round employment.

What the future holds for Skagway is a matter of conjecture at this time. However, given continued strong growth in tourism the worst is probably over for this historic Alaskan town. If world mineral prices rise and the Cyprus-Anvil mine should resume operations there is the possibility of the railroad reopening. There is also the possibility of the mine reopening based on the road between Whitehorse and Skagway being maintained on a year-round basis which would allow trucking of the ore instead of the old method of shipping by rail. While this probably would not benefit the economy of Skagway as much as reopening the railroad, it would provide additional economic stimulus to the community.

Table III
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon Census Area Annual Average Unemployment
1980-1984

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon	12.5%	14.0%	13.4%	20.2%	15.0%

See footnote center insert.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
by Place of Work
Southeast Alaska

				Changes From:	
	P/ 3/85	R/ 2/85	3/84	2/85	3/84
Nonag. Wage & Salary	27850	27200	26850	650	1000
Construction	1250	1100	1500	150	-250
Manufacturing	2350	2050	2250	300	100
Food & Kindred Prod.	450	400	450	50	0
Lumber & Paper Prod.	1650	1400	1600	250	50
All Other Mfg.	250	250	200	0	50
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	1900	1850	1800	50	100
Trade	4600	4600	4150	0	450
Wholesale	400	400	350	0	50
Retail	4200	4200	3800	0	400
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	1100	1100	1000	0	100
Mining, Services & Misc.	4350	4400	4400	-50	-50
Government	12300	12100	11750	200	550
Federal	1950	1900	1950	50	0
State	5700	5600	5450	100	250
Local	4650	4600	4350	50	300

Hours and Earnings

By Kathleen Thomas

The Alaska article in this issue focuses on state government employment and its relationship to different areas and agencies. This article, using the same data source as the Alaska article, compares average monthly wages of the different departments and areas for February 1985 and July 1984. Average monthly wages are determined by dividing total monthly payroll by total monthly employment. February and July are used to compare the peak and trough of the usual activity cycle. It is anticipated that average monthly wages could vary even within state government employment as the season changes.

The departments with the largest increases in February average monthly wages are the Departments of Fish and Game and Natural Resources. This change could be anticipated since both of these departments have short, intense field seasons in the summer. Department of Fish and Game summer activities include research data collection, fish counting, fish and game management, fish ticket collection, permitting, and a multitude of other activities related to subsistence, sport, and commercial fish and game. Most of the activities involving the Department of Natural Resources are also summer related. The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for the management of State lands and has divisions responsible for agriculture, land and water management, forestry, mining, parks, and outdoor recreational, all predominantly summer activities. Since the field season is short, a bevy of technicians is hired to complete the data collection. The technicians are generally on a lower pay scale than the regular staff and would effectively lower the summer average monthly wage for these departments. After the departure of these summer employees, average monthly wages would increase.

Average monthly wages for the Department of Military Affairs increased 15% but only a percentage of the payroll is for full time employees, the rest is for bonus payments. Therefore, the average monthly wages do not accurately reflect the pay for the permanent employees. The other departments with larger percentage changes in average monthly employment are those with large numbers of seasonal employees or small organiza-

tions where a few position changes can offset the average salary.

The regional average monthly wages changed negligibly from July to February except in the Northern region, which increased 7%. The Northern region includes the Barrow-North Slope, Kobuk, and Nome census areas. In the summer the season is short

Table I
State Government Employment
Average Monthly Wages by Department
(In Dollars)

Department	July 1984	Feb. 1985	% Change
Legislative Audit	$3609.42	$3752.43	+4.0
Law	3617.20	3454.49	-4.5
Public Safety	3466.42	3401.42	-1.9
DOT/PF	3354.70	3274.87	-2.4
Legislative Finance	3425.61	3237.55	-5.5
Ombudsman	3097.95	3218.43	+3.9
Corrections	3092.25	3063.25	-0.9
Commerce	3038.13	3051.41	+0.4
Environmental Conservation	3017.98	3037.65	+0.7
Office of the Governor	2839.60	2946.24	+3.8
State Average	2894.37	2907.05	+0.4
Fish and Game	2739.51	2891.96	+5.6
Labor	2666.87	2738.43	+2.7
Community and Regional Affairs	2728.37	2729.58	0.0
Natural Resources	2423.83	2714.35	+12.0
Education	2612.93	2684.26	+2.7
Revenue	2511.07	2638.78	+5.1
Health and Social Services	2716.32	2633.73	-3.0
Legislative Affairs	2633.35	2631.62	0.0
Court System	2558.48	2559.33	0.0
Administration	2478.26	2520.37	+1.7
Military Affairs	1792.77	2059.51	+14.9

Table II
State Government Employment
Average Monthly Wages by Region
(In Dollars)

Region	July 1984	Feb. 1985	% Change
Northern	$3208.18	$3451.09	+7.6
Gulf Coast	3013.78	3066.37	+1.7
Interior	3177.50	3225.73	+1.5
Southeast	2833.25	2847.16	+0.5
Anchorage	2768.88	2781.92	+0.5
Southwest	3172.55	3139.24	-1.0

Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries 1/ 2/

	Average Hourly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Weekly Earnings		
	P/ 3/85	R/ 2/85	3/84	P/ 3/85	R/ 2/85	3/84	P/ 3/85	R/ 2/85	3/84
Mining	22.81	24.58	23.31	50.8	52.9	51.3	11158.75	1300.28	1195.80
Contract Construction	23.11	24.21	24.62	46.2	40.7	40.7	1067.68	985.35	1002.03
Manufacturing	13.33	13.34	13.11	37.8	36.2	41.7	503.87	482.91	546.69
Food & Kindred Prod.	8.85	8.99	8.22	35.7	33.6	42.4	315.95	302.06	348.53
Lumber & Paper Prod.	15.94	16.49	17.32	37.3	35.0	41.1	594.56	577.15	711.85
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	15.98	15.69	15.44	34.0	34.0	36.8	543.32	533.46	568.19
Trade	10.95	11.08	10.34	34.1	34.1	34.7	373.40	377.83	358.80
Wholesale	12.56	12.34	11.97	37.3	38.4	37.2	468.49	473.86	445.28
Retail	10.25	10.53	9.62	32.9	32.5	33.7	337.23	342.23	324.19
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	—	—	—	—	—	—	429.36	410.52	360.85

1/ Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

2/ Excludes eating and drinking establishments.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS SERIES: Averages are based on data for full and part time production workers (manufacturing) and non-supervisory workers (nonmanufacturing) and are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.

and intense thereby leading to an influx of lower paid employees to accomplish the necessary tasks in anticipation of the long winter.

Other than the few changes greater than 5%, average monthly wages in the State of Alaska are remarkably stable throughout the year, both by department and by area.